



## **SUSTAINABLE WATER POLICY 2015**

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## Foreword

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With an increasing demand on a limited water supply, NPH wishes to promote the minimisation of water use among existing tenants in order to conserve and secure the proper use of water resources.

The objective of this policy is to encourage efficient use of water resources, to improve the water-efficient devices and to support healthy land – use (new development) to avoid local flooding and pollution to watercourse.

## NPH Sustainable Water Hierarchy

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It is projected that the amount of water in rivers and ground water reserves will decrease over time which could lead to shortfalls in water supply.

NPH recognises the need to ensure that the use of water is at sustainable levels, encourage water conservation.

In terms of new development NPH will drive forward practical measures that will help reduce the risk and impacts of flooding and improve flood resilience.

### NPH Offices

NPH approach to sustainable water management is to:

- ✓ Monitor and record water meters
- ✓ Reduce water consumption as far as possible through low cost/no cost measures, and optimise use of existing equipment, and
- ✓ Find opportunities for alternative water supply on NPH facilities, such as diverting rainwater that falls on roofs and storing it for later reuse.

### Existing Housing Stock

NPH, as a housing services provider, will help tenants to save water and money, in three key ways, by:

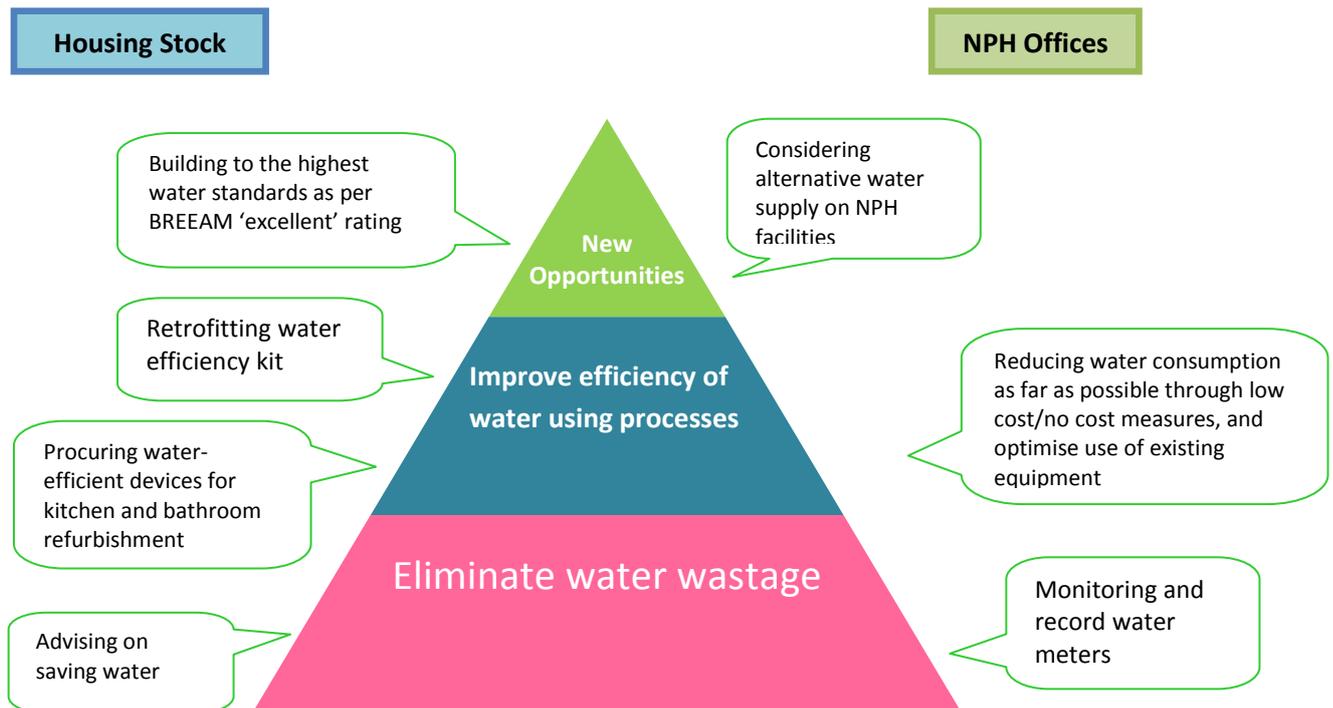
- ✓ Providing advice on saving water.
- ✓ Procuring water-efficient devices for kitchen and bathroom refurbishment.
- ✓ Retrofitting water efficiency kit - Many of the bathrooms and kitchens in the existing housing stock have already been upgraded as part of Decent Homes Standard Improvements and will not require improvements in the near future.

NPH will put in place processes linked to other routine maintenance, or changes in tenancy, to ensure that showers, taps and toilets are retrofitted with water-efficiency devices wherever possible.

## New development opportunities

NPH approach is to:

- ✓ Build to the highest water standards as per BREEAM 'excellent' rating (eq. Code Level 4\*).
- ✓ Support healthy land – use to avoid local flooding and avoid pollution to watercourses.



## Our Commitment

### NPH will:

- ✓ Monitor the amount of water NPH uses by monitoring water meters.
- ✓ Create a process and culture for reporting and fixing leaks at NPH offices.
- ✓ Encourage employees to use water wisely.
- ✓ Install low flow shower heads in any showers used.
- ✓ Incorporate water efficiency improvements into building refurbishment and responsive and planned maintenance works.

\*The Code for Sustainable Homes has now been withdrawn

### **NPH Board and Committee Members will:**

- ✓ Ensure their decisions promote and maximise opportunities to improve sustainable water management.
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership in sustainable water management in their activities and actions.

### **NPH employees will:**

- ✓ Ensure to use water efficiently.
- ✓ Ensure to report any drips and leaks at NPH offices immediately.

## **Reporting**

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NPH will progress this work through a sustainable water management plan, which will be part of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan developed by the Environmental Sustainability Working Group.

A quarterly review of the progress will be carried out by the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

### **The key actions for 2015/2016 are follows:**

- ✓ To measure how much water is used by NPH as this is the key to knowing where there are problems and to see any change as a result of efficiency efforts.
- ✓ To encourage NPH employees and tenants to use water wisely by promoting sustainable water management.

## **Review**

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The Sustainable Water Policy will be reviewed every three years.